

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

ATTACK HOUSING BIAS

Plans to seek ways of furthering residentially inclusive community patterns in one or more northern cities were announced at the mid-winter meeting of the Council for Christian Social Action, held at Buck Hill Falls Inn, Cresco, Pennsylvania, January 29 to 31. A number of other denominations, particularly the Methodist, Presbyterian U. S. A., American Baptist, and Disciples of Christ, in addition to the United Church of Christ, have expressed their interest in such a program and are expected to share in the direction and execution of the program. Funds are being sought from interested foundations as well as from individuals and organizations within the sponsoring communions. The project has been approved as an "authorized special" for Congregational Christian churches. "Desig-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

THIS YOU CAN DO NOW FOR PEACE!

By HERMAN F. REISSIG

On the importance of missiles and bomb testing Christians do not always agree. Lacking agreement, there is no powerful Christian witness. While we study and discuss and pray for more light, there are some tasks of first importance on which very large numbers of us in the churches ought to be able to unite. Let us look at some facts.

First Fact

In at least two-thirds of our world men and women are poor to the point of desperation. Their poverty presents to fantastically rich America an unavoidable moral problem. The problem is stated in the New Testament stories of the Good Samaritan, Dives and the Poor Man, the Last Judgment. All the differences and reservations and difficulties we can think of will not per-

mit us to escape the question: "If any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" The poverty also presents a political challenge. Communism's threat to freedom is greatest where men and women are made impatient, or desperate, by sheer physical misery. No one claims that poverty is the only reason for political unrest. No one claims that the United States can with dollars buy friendship or make freedom secure. The fact remains: in the world-wide struggle between freedom and communism, the side that gives impoverished peoples the most help in meeting their elementary need, in ways that respect their human dignity, has the best chance of winning their political vote.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

BECAUSE OF CALVARY



"AND MEN WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST, AND FROM NORTH AND SOUTH, AND SIT AT TABLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. AND BEHOLD, SOME ARE LAST WHO WILL BE FIRST, AND SOME ARE FIRST WHO WILL BE LAST"
— CHRIST (LUKE 13:29,30)

Lent—1958

For some strange reason, there is a feeling in many churches that Lent is a time to "soft-pedal" social issues and focus on the spiritual life of the individual. Fair enough if this means that we turn in prayer and renewed commitment to the Christ who is the Source of our faith and the Center of our life.

But then! Ignore the perplexity, tension, and desperate need of the world? Isolate the spirit of man from the complex of relationships, institutions, and structures in which he lives his life? And do this in the name of devotion to a Christ who bids us see and love and serve himself in our brother? Meditate on the Cross as if it were not the instrument with which God smashes the barriers we have erected against Him and one another? Claim the joy of a Resurrection which heralds a Kingdom beyond caste or color or class and reject that kingdom in our inner allegiance and outward deed? How foolish can you get?

The Cross challenges all our pride, our exclusiveness, our isolationism, our selfishness. More than that, because of Calvary and what came after, a New Community was born which cannot tolerate apartheid or segregation, gross inequalities of privilege between nations or irresponsible threats to international peace and justice. Lent is not a retreat from responsibility. It is solemn renewal for action.

Second Fact

The economic aid the United States has given other countries since 1945 has *not* been wasted; it has been, at once, the partial discharge of a moral obligation, an action called for by regard for our own nation's well-being, and an immense contribution to world peace and order. The year 1957 saw at least four exhaustive investigations of foreign aid. The United States Senate investigated. The House of Representatives investigated. The International Development Advisory Board, headed by Eric Johnston, investigated. The President's Citizen Advisers, seven men headed by steel man Ben Fairless, investigated. In addition private organizations looked carefully into the matter. Reports were made by the United States Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, by the Committee for Economic Development (American business men and educators) and by the Columbia University Arden House seminar.

All of these investigations and reports agree that a program of foreign economic aid at least as large as the 1957-58 program is essential. Some of the investigating groups advocated a much larger program. We are, therefore, justified in putting it down as a fact that foreign economic aid is an indispensable part of United States foreign policy.

Says Ben Fairless: "In regard to the over-all foreign assistance program, we have not been 'Uncle Sap.' The world is at peace; economic progress is being made, and people abroad generally both respect and like us for what we have done."⁽¹⁾

Says Clarence Randall, former board chairman of Inland Steel: "Of course there have been mistakes . . . It is my considered judgment that the mistakes in administration of foreign economic assistance have been just about comparable in character with those that occur in the average business organization, and that they stem from just about the same frailties of human nature that prevail in all walks of life."⁽²⁾

Says President Eisenhower in his 1958 address to Congress on the State of the Union: "Some people may be tempted to finance our extra military effort by cutting economic assistance. But at the very time when the economic threat (from the Soviet Union) is assuming menacing proportions, to fail to strengthen our own effort would be reckless folly."

Third Fact

International trade is an absolutely vital part of the United States economy

DO YOU NEED A SPEAKER?

The following people have agreed, so far as their other duties permit, to respond to invitations to speak on foreign economic aid and world trade. Special materials have been sent to them. If one of those listed below is in your area, we suggest you invite him or her to lead a discussion in your church or in a Synod, Conference, or Association meeting.

CALIFORNIA

Rev. Emerson Hangen.....3508 E. Second St., Long Beach 3
Rev. Melvin Harter.....4905 Jellett St., San Diego 17
Rev. Julian Keiser.....3125 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles
Mrs. Theodore Sebern.....726 No. Lincoln, Burbank

COLORADO

Mrs. Frank Havice.....761 Cascade, Boulder

CONNECTICUT

Dr. William L. Bradley.....55 Elizabeth St., Hartford 5
Rev. Roscoe F. Metzger.....36 Woodland Ave., Bloomfield
Rev. Alfred Schmalz.....First Congregational Church, Darien

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Rev. Henry C. Koch.....1920 G St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

ILLINOIS

Rev. Martin P. Schroedel.....109 E. Mill St., Staunton
Rev. Alfred Schroeder.....26 N. 14th St., Belleville

INDIANA

Mrs. Robert B. Miller.....264 Bridge St., Gary 3

IOWA

J. Stuart Russell.....Register & Tribune, Des Moines

MASSACHUSETTS

Rev. Myron W. Fowell.....14 Beacon St., Boston 8
Rev. Ralph Holland.....10 Navasota Ave., Worcester

MICHIGAN

Rev. Charles Hastie.....307 East St., Olivet
Rev. Walter S. Press.....1327 Kay Parkway, Ann Arbor

MISSOURI

Richard C. Budlong.....408 Olive St., St. Louis 2

OHIO

Rev. J. Chandler Adams.....3925 W. Central Ave., Toledo 6

PENNSYLVANIA

Rev. Tibor Chikes.....505 Main St., Phoenixville
Mrs. Robert L. McGeehan.....333 N. Broad St., West Hazleton
Rev. Charles R. Zweizig.....1618 Walnut St., Allentown

RHODE ISLAND

Rev. Lawrence L. Durgin.....20 Diman Place, Providence 6

VIRGINIA

Mrs. Guy A. Benchoff.....603 Main St., Woodstock

WASHINGTON

Rev. Theron Zimmerman.....720—14th Ave., No., Seattle 2

and of the economy of almost every one of the world's nations. The United States, Canada, Britain, India, Japan—to mention only five countries—cannot carry on, economically, without imports and exports. Almost without reservation, we can say: what hampers international trade is bad; what helps the flow of such trade is good. In the United States we have tried to bring our practices into line with this fact through the Reciprocal Trade Agreements legislation. This legislation makes it possible for the United States to reach agreements with other countries on tariff rates that will be to their mutual advantage. The Washington Administration is asking a five-year extension of this legislation, which expires May 31, 1958. Says President Eisenhower: "Both in our national interest, and in the interest of world peace, we must have a five-year extension of the trade agreements act—with broadened authority to negotiate."

Fourth Fact

All observers agree on the immediate outlook in Congress for aid and trade legislation. Said a dispatch from Washington, published in the *New York Times* on January 10, 1958: "The heart of the President's case, as Congress generally saw it, was for the salvation of the two major aspects of his program that are in the greatest trouble — the reciprocal trade (tariff-lowering) and foreign aid programs." With little delay, the Congress will vote toward military power, not only what the President asks but, probably, even more. There is real danger that foreign economic aid will be cut and that short-sighted pressure groups will defeat the trade legislation.

Fifth Fact

The President and those Senators and Congressmen who see the crucial importance of aid and trade need every bit

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 3)

(1) LOOK magazine, July 23, 1957.

(2) SATURDAY EVENING POST, June 22, 1957.

CHURCHES TACKLE LOCAL, NATIONAL PROBLEMS

The Redwood City, California, Congregational Church held a meeting on mixed housing, with good coverage in the local press. Participating in the panel discussion were: Dr. Luigi Laurenti, member of the research staff of the Commission on Race and Housing of the Fund for the Republic; Jefferson Beaver, Urban League Board president, and vice president of the Trans Bay Savings & Loan Association of San Francisco; Helen Amerman, assistant director, and Louis Jones, president, of the Councils for Civic Unity in San Francisco and Mid-Peninsula respectively. Part of a report given by Dr. Laurenti stressed the fact that "Property values, more often than not, had better levels in integrated neighborhoods than in all-white ones." This conclusion was developed from a study of 20 neighborhoods in San Francisco, Oakland and Philadelphia.

* * *

Two social action sections ("The Christian and Welfare" and "Has U. S. Foreign Policy Come of Age?") of the Annual Seminar Series at First Church, Berkeley, drew good interest and attendance. Subjects considered in the six-weeks period included: "The Development of Welfare and Social Responsibility"—"Whose Responsibility Is Education?"—"The Problem of Public Housing"—"After 65 What?"—"A New Look Into Foreign Aid"—"Does the U. S. Need Nato?"—"Significance of Recent Developments in Soviet Foreign Policy."

* * *

Miss Olga Sievert, chairman of the California Synod committee on Christian social action, reports that a recent conference on alcoholism in San Francisco was attended by about 150 persons, including many public officials, doctors, psychiatrists, social workers and others. All statistics presented pointed to the seriousness of the problem. The findings of the panel discussions pointed up the fact that alcoholism should be treated as a mental illness. The group recommended that the public be made more aware of existing facilities for helping alcoholics, such as the Adult Guidance Center; stressing the fact that there is a definite need for funds to increase and improve these facilities.

* * *

In many places in the nation business as usual on Sunday seems to be on the

increase, in spite of state laws that ban all Sunday work except "works of charity and necessity." Merchants who are asked about this practice say: "We must face competition. Besides, our busiest time on Sunday is right after church services are dismissed!"

In New Brunswick, New Jersey, the Council of Churches put itself on record to "commend and support those merchants who, in the face of the most unfair forms of competition, have remained adamant in keeping their places of business closed on the Sabbath Day."

Then it adopted a resolution appealing to church leaders and people to "put new life and new meaning into their observance of the Sabbath, and 'suggesting' that members of the congregations 'Refrain from any unnecessary shopping on the Sabbath,' and 'Refrain from patronizing during the week those places of business that insist on disregarding our state laws on Sabbath activity.'"

Business groups and community committees with which the Council of Churches cooperated included Jewish representatives in their membership, so that friction between religious groups was avoided.

* * *

This fall, the social action committee of the Veradale Community Church, Veradale, Washington, under the chairmanship of an alert physician, Dr. Harvey L. Young, conducted a stimulating series of forums. At the first of these a psychiatrist, a school principal, a mother, and the juvenile division officer of the sheriff's office dealt with "Understanding the Adolescent." The second forum featured "Mental Health Problems," with emphasis on local needs. A former mental hospital superintendent, family counseling service representative, school guidance director, and Alcoholics Anonymous representative participated. In the third of the series, persons familiar with problems of civil defense, air defense, and radiation hazards dealt with "Are You Ready for Disaster?"

* * *

The Reverend Leroy M. Kutz, pastor of Jerusalem Church, Buffalo, New York, was one of a number of Empire State clergymen who called attention to the social and moral implications of the proposed legalization of bingo in that state. At the close of the sermon, the

THIS YOU CAN DO

(Continued from Page 2)

of support they can get. The persons and organizations who are against foreign economic aid and in favor of high protective tariffs are already working hard.

Sixth Fact

The Council for Christian Social Action is prepared to help you get the facts on aid and trade. A corps of speakers has been recruited (see partial list on page 2). A nation-wide tour by the International Relations Secretary is being sponsored by the National Council of Churches during March and April. For fifty cents you may have a packet of excellent materials.

You are urged to study and discuss these materials and then to register your opinion through

Letters to the President—

Letters to your Senators and Congressmen—

Letters to your newspaper

The CCSA is prepared to give testimony in Congress. It believes that support of these measures is clearly in line with Christian beliefs and principles. Will you help?

WASHINGTON SEMINAR

For the second time, the Council for Christian Social Action is conducting a denominational Washington Seminar, April 15-17. Planned especially for those who were unable to attend the interdenominational seminar in February, this is an excellent opportunity for orientation in political processes and responsibilities.

Registrations and requests for information should be addressed to Miss Fern Babcock, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

members of the congregation present gave unanimous expression to their intention to vote against the proposed bingo amendment.

* * *

Some weeks ago we had a very fine letter at the Cleveland office from a former member of the Commission on Christian Social Action, Mrs. William Thiedt, who is now serving as president of the School Board in her home community of Cheektowaga, just outside of Buffalo, N. Y. We give you just one of the many sentences we thought were worth quoting: "I need not promise my support (to the denominational program of Christian social action) for it is not possible for me to withdraw from living, and social action to me is just simple Christian living."

Attack Housing Bias*(Continued from Page 1)*

nated gifts" for the purpose similarly will be sought from the Evangelical and Reformed constituency.

In another action, the Council authorized its subcommittee on economic life to study the issues involved in legislation prohibiting labor-management agreements which make union membership a condition of employment. Commonly called "right to work" laws by groups favoring them, they have been attacked as "compulsory open shop" laws by persons who regard them as a threat to good labor-management relations.

Other topics which were considered by the Council were a proposed new Manual on Christian Social Action for the guidance of local churches, closer cooperation with the overseas missionary agencies of the United Church, reports of interfaith friction concerning released-time religious education programs, and a paper on "What Should Christians Seek in Foreign Policy?"

Present as advisory members, in addition to members of the Congregational Christian Council for Social Action, were Mrs. Robert Miller, the newly appointed Christian social action chairman of the Women's Guild; Mrs. Frank Havice, who holds a similar office in the Women's Fellowship; Dr. Sheldon Mackey, co-secretary of the United Church; Mrs. Milton Lang, representing the Evangelical and Reformed General Council; and Dr. Masao Takenaka, professor of economics at Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, who is traveling and speaking in this country under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Cleveland, September 9-11.

SUMMER INSTITUTES AND TRAVEL SEMINARS

It is not too early to make plans for the summer, is it? Take note of the dates of the four regional Christian Social Action Institutes. Make your plans to attend and send your registration to Miss Fern Babcock in New York.

State Conference social action committee chairmen and Synodical social action committee chairmen are expected to attend the institute nearest to their homes. Their expenses will be defrayed by the Council for Christian Social Action. In addition, a limited number of partial scholarships are available. For these, write to the directors of the Council—Congregational Christians to Dr. Ray Gibbons, Evangelical and Reformed to Dr. Huber F. Klemme.

And don't overlook the summer study-travel seminars. On June 30, the European Travel Seminar, under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. Galen R. Weaver, will meet in New York to begin its six-week tour of England, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Finland, and Sweden. Cost, \$1695, plus passport and personal expenses. Information from Mr. Weaver in New York.

The Mexican Seminar, led by Rev. and Mrs. Huber F. Klemme, will meet in Mexico City on August 8 and complete its program August 27. Cost of this tour is \$295, plus transportation to and from Mexico City. Write to Mr. Klemme in Cleveland.

GUILD URGES ACTION

The Fourth Quadrennial Convention of the Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, meeting in St. Louis in November, adopted a number of resolutions expressing its concern for Christian action in society. Voting cooperation with the current emphasis of the Council for Christian Social Action, the Convention urged the women of the church to become better informed about economic aid and technical assistance programs, and to take appropriate action "as individuals and as an organization whenever the foreign aid program is threatened."

The Convention supported action for the removal of all racial barriers in church life, in housing, and in community facilities. Another resolution urged local Guilds to be concerned with the needs of the public schools.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

- April 15-17—CCSA Washington Seminar.
- June 20-22—Conference on the Churchman as a Citizen, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania.
- June 30-July 12—Race Relations Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.
- June 30-August 8—European Study Seminar, Galen R. Weaver, Director.
- July 1-5—West Coast Christian Social Action Institute, Mill Valley, California.
- July 8-12—Mid-West Christian Social Action Institute, Plymouth, Wisconsin.
- July 15-19—Central States Christian Social Action Institute, Oberlin College, Oberlin.
- July 21-25—Interdenominational Institute on Racial and Cultural Relations, McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill.
- July 22-26—Eastern Christian Social Action Institute, Framingham, Massachusetts.
- August 8-27—Mexican Study Seminar, Huber F. Klemme, Director.
- August 19-22—National Conference on Christian Education, Lafayette, Ind.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

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Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

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